

As a third year law student in my last semester I have had the opportunity to be taking both a course in Antitrust Law and a course in Administrative Law simultaneously. I would like to take a moment to comment on the proposed rulemaking regarding preserving the open internet with both the antitrust and the administrative law frameworks informing my perspective.

I believe that strong, pro-consumer Net Neutrality laws be enacted to keep the internet free and open for all. There is much speculation surrounding this proposed rulemaking regarding what would happen if the large corporate conglomerates, such as Verizon and Comcast, were permitted to dictate network traffic and charge competitors inflated prices for broadband use. The result if these corporations were allowed to exercise this type of power would be contrary to the public use and public purpose and the localism that the FCC seeks to protect and foster. For example, if Comcast is allowed to charge Netflix an inflated charge for its broadband use while it offers a similar movie rental service of its own, the potential for these large corporations to squeeze out competition to further their bottom lines would virtually eliminate the consumer choice we currently enjoy on the internet.

As a nation it is important that we maintain the internet as the last place we can truly have free, open, unfettered, and unbiased access to the marketplace of ideas without such corporations making our choices for us. By keeping levels of competition high and access open on the internet we truly have an opportunity to maintain localism in the form of individual blogs, online merchants and the like while simultaneously being able to take that localism and offer it to the world. It is in this spirit that I support the FCC in its proposed rulemaking putting in place measures to preserve the open internet.